THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 28th July 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Closure of the Civil Supplies Unit at Vijayavada.

* 1142-A, * 1142-B and * 1142-C—

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There are three questions on the same subject. I will answer all of them together."

* 1142-A *Q*.—SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have cancelled the Civil Supplies Unit at Vijayavada; and

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative to what place the lorries and other vehicles of the Unit were transferred?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) In pursuance of the Decontrol Policy adopted by the Government, two units of lorries (36 in all), were laid off the road in October 1952 as there was no work for them.

" (*b*) Some of the lorries were sent to other districts for use in the Mobile Grain Shop Scheme. Some were sent to other districts including Guntur for use in famine relief operations and supplying drinking water. Four vehicles were auctioned at Vijayavada itself as they were unfit for further use. The remaining lorries which either required extensive repairs or were unfit for further use were ordered to be transferred to Madras for repairs or sale. Seven of them have already arrived at Madras and the remaining eleven are on the way. The defunct units did not consist of any vehicles other than lorries."

* 1142-B *Q*.—SRI K. SUBBA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to State—

(*a*) whether the Civil Supplies Department Unit at Vijayavada has been abolished ; and

(*b*) how many Civil Supplies lorries were transferred to Madras from Vijayavada?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes. In pursuance of the policy of decontrol two units of lorries (36 in all) were laid off the road in October 1952 as there was no work for them.

" (*b*) Eighteen lorries of which 7 have already arrived and 11 are on the way."

* 1142-C *Q*.—SRI M. VEERABHADRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have closed the Civil Supplies Department Unit at Vijayavada;

(*b*) whether the Government have transferred all the movable property or part of it of the same department from Vijayavada to Madras; and

(*c*) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) It is presumed that the hon. Member is referring to the Civil Supplies transport units. If so, the answer is in the affirmative. In pursuance of the policy of decontrol two units of lorries (36 in all) were laid off the road in October 1952 as there was no work for them.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) The two units at Vijayavada were being used in connexion with the intensive procurement scheme in the Andhra districts. As this scheme was given up in view of the revised food policy of the Government which was announced in June 1952 there was no longer any need for these two units and hence they were abolished last year itself. The serviceable spare parts, accessories, etc., of the lorries of these units were transferred to Bobbili where two Civil Supplies Transport Units are still functioning and to Madras for being stored in the Central Stores for use by the Civil Supplies vehicles throughout the State. Some of the lorries were diverted for use in the Mobile Grainshops Scheme and for use in famine relief operations and in supplying drinking water in Guntur district. The remaining lorries and the unserviceable spare parts and accessories were ordered to be transferred to Madras for the following reasons :—

(*a*) to avoid incurring expenditure on the staff required for looking after the lorries and stores;

(*b*) all the remaining lorries either required extensive repairs or were unfit for further use. The lorries which required extensive repairs were ordered to be transferred to Madras for getting them repaired prior to their allotment to other departments requiring them. This was done because there are better workshop facilities in Madras City than